SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5300**

		7	4	8	3	2		
	4	1		5		6		3
2						4		
		4				5		7
6	7			1		3	8	
			9					
9		6	8				1	
			7				2	
		5			2			

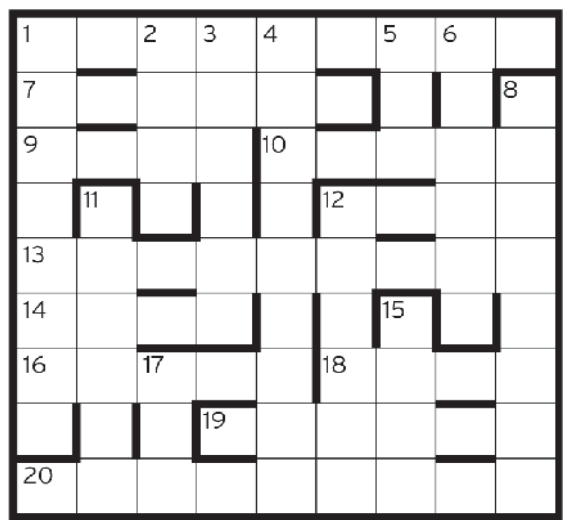
TRICKY **B5300**

						7	5	
		2					3	
3		5		2		4		
			4	1			6	
		3	6		5			
9	4		2					
4		9	8					
							1	
	6				9		2	5

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD



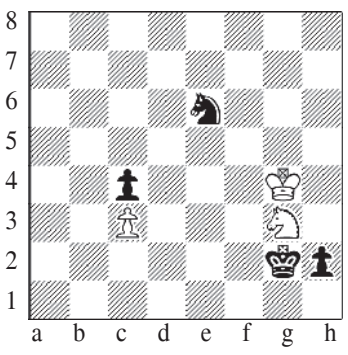
ACROSS

1 Planned series of events (9)
7 Brought up (6)
9 _ von Bismarck, German statesman (4)
10 Hooded snake (5)
12 Agitate (4)
13 Capital of North Korea (9)
14 Greek god of love (4)
16 Jewish minister (5)
18 _ Blair, former PM (4)
19 Handy (6)
20 Deadlock in chess (9)

DOWN

1 Thrives (8)
2 Solemn promise (4)
3 Complains or grumbles (6)
4 Goes nicer (anag.) (9)
5 Rabble (3)
6 Harbour for yachts (6)
8 Waterspout carving (8)
11 Dictator (6)
12 Method (6)
15 Settee (4)
17 Long scarf (3)

CHESS



BLACK GETS A QUEEN

HINT: DIVERT WHITE'S KNIGHT.

Solution: 1. ... Ng7! 2. Kf4 (protects the knight) Nh5ch! 3. Nxh5 h1=Q. If instead 2. Kh4, ... Nf5ch! with the same result.

TARGET

G	Y	R
U	H	O
C	I	L

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 13;

Very good 19;

Excellent 25 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

FLATULENT

attune aunt eluant fault faun FLATULENT flaunt flue fluent flute fuel full lunate lute null taunt taut tauten tufa tuft tulle tuna tune ulna unlet

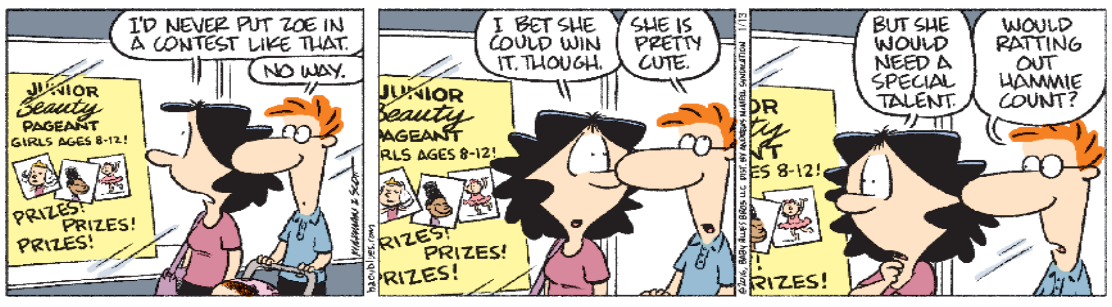
THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

SO WHAT'S THIS QUEST WE'RE GOING ON?
IT'S A BIGGIE, KID!
THERE ARE RUMORS OF A SNOWY OWL SIGHTING OVER AT THE CEMETERY!
WE WILL STATION OURSELVES IN SAID CEMETERY UNTIL WE CONFIRM THE SIGHTING! FOR HOURS! PERHAPS DAYS!
DAYS?
NO WORRIES. I HAVE DEVILED EGGS AND THREE BAGS OF FUNYUNS.
visit: bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

BABY BLUES


I'D NEVER PUT ZOE IN A CONTEST LIKE THAT.
NO WAY.
JUNIOR Beauty PAGEANT GIRLS AGES 8-12!
PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!
I BET SHE COULD WIN IT, THOUGH.
SHE IS PRETTY CUTE.
BUT SHE WOULD NEED A SPECIAL TALENT.
WOULD RATTING OUT HAMMIE COUNT?

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:57pm	05:23pm	06:03pm	05:22pm	05:28pm	05:57pm
Sunrise	07:13am	07:09am	07:17am	07:01am	07:17am	07:25am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow				Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook		Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	3	15	Fog	71	4	15	Fog		6	15	Fog
Hyderabad	7	23	Sunny	47	10	26	Sunny		10	27	Sunny
Islamabad	6	18	Sunny	49	6	19	Sunny		8	19	Partly Cloudy
Lahore	4	14	Fog	74	4	13	Fog		5	13	Fog
Multan	4	16	Fog	74	5	17	Fog		7	16	Fog
Peshawar	4	19	Sunny	63	5	19	Sunny		6	18	Partly Cloudy
Quetta	1	15	Sunny	50	4	16	Mostly Sunny		6	18	Mostly Cloudy

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
CANVASSING

(CANVASSING: KAN-veh-sing: Soliciting political support or opinions in a district.)

Average mark 16 words
Time limit 30 minutes

Can you find 24 or more words in CANVASSING?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD – BUCKRAM

back, bark, buck, burka, carb, crab, cram, crumb, curb, rack, ruck, rumba, amuck, marc, mark, muck, murk

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

Relocates, Occurs, Eternal, No 1, Fit, Glacial, Try, Cede, Resents, Editor, Pantomime.

DOWN

Round trip, Echo, Outlay, Crescendo, Tan, Email, Saltpetre, Victim, Greta, Doom, Sin.

METRO EVENTS

PLAY

The Mother, a play translated and directed by Usama Khan, is staged at the National Academy of Performing Arts, at 8pm.

CONFERENCE

The inaugural session of the '2nd International Conference on Digital Transformation in Management 2026' is held in the auditorium of the Karachi University Business School at 4pm.

PHYSIO FEST

'Physio Fest' featuring counselling events, fitness sessions, drama and project display etc, is organised at the main auditorium, Iqra University, North campus, at 9am.

EXHIBITION

An exhibition of works by Zahra Mansoor opens at Sanat Initiative Gallery at 5pm. The show, titled *Fanaa is the Eclipse*, will continue till Jan 22.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

*** This is a passionate day. Your attraction to someone older or in a position of power might be compelling. Why not seek the advice of someone who is more experienced? Double-check things related to shared property, debt and inheritances, because something unexpected could happen. Stay on your toes. Tonight: Explore and learn!

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

*** Today you'll have to go more than halfway when dealing with others, which is not a problem. Travel plans look exciting. You might have opportunities to pursue further education or coursework. Romance with someone "different" might begin. It's a restless day. Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** Today is a bit of a mixed bag. Romance will be passionate. You will also be very productive because you're levelheaded and focused. Having said that, something will interrupt your work routine, your health or even your dealings with a pet. Be ready for anything. Tonight: Cooperate.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** This is a passionate, romantic day, and some will make a commitment. Or you might commit to a school or a major trip. Unexpected social invitations could appear, or some might be cancelled. Parents should be vigilant because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Tonight: Get organized.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

*** Your home routine will be interrupted today. Small appliances might break down or a minor breakage could occur. Perhaps someone unexpected will be at the door. A work-related romance or a flirtation might take place for some of you. Financial discussions will be reassuring. Tonight: Socialize!

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** Give yourself extra time today so you have wiggle room to deal with the unexpected. A serious discussion with a partner or close friend might take place. This is also a great day to socialize. Enjoy fun activities with kids and romantic outings. Tonight: Relax.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** Keep an eye on your money and belongings today. Something unexpected might incur damage or loss. However, financial discussions or special purchases might improve your home in a lovely way. Look for opportunities right now to make your home more attractive. Tonight: A warm discussion.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** This is a restless, excitable day, which is why you might seek stimulating outlets or be attracted to someone who is "different." Your impulsive actions might disrupt something. This is because you're eager to have a good time and share entertaining diversions with someone. Tonight: Check your belongings.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

*** This is a restless day for you; however, it's also a positive, sensible day. A discussion with someone older, perhaps a parent or a family member, will yield practical results. You might be nursing some ideas about buying something beautiful for yourself or someone else, or financial speculation. Tonight: You win!

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

**** It's a great day to schmooze with friends and groups. However, someone might surprise you or catch you off guard, or you might meet a real character. Listen to the advice of someone older or more experienced. A romantic attraction is in the picture! Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

*** You impress bosses, parents and authority figures today. They see you as someone who is reliable, conscientious and capable of putting up with adversity. You have patience and strength, which is admirable. Privately, you might feel rebellious. Tonight: Be friendly.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** Do something different today. You have a need for adventure and excitement. In fact, pay attention to everything you say and do to avoid an accident. Meanwhile, social interactions with friends and groups, especially artistic people, will be meaningful for you. Something casual might heat up into a romantic connection. Tonight: You're noticed.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

By the sweat of the brow

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 8 4 2
♥ 10 6 2
♦ 8 5 3
♣ A J 7

WEST
♠ K
♥ Q J 9 8
♦ A Q 7 4
♣ 9 8 5 3

EAST
♠ J 9 6
♥ 7 5 4 3
♦ J 10 9
♣ 10 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 7 5 3
♥ A K
♦ K 6 2
♣ K Q 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead -- queen of hearts.

The outcome of most contracts depends largely on how the defender's cards are distributed. This refers not only to how the suits are divided, but also to the location of the missing high cards.

Nevertheless, a thoughtful declarer can sometimes overcome a bad lie of the cards by allowing for the possibility that it may exist and adopting the proper precautionary measures.

Consider this deal where West leads the queen of hearts against four spades.

Declarer sees immediately that he will lose at least one trump trick and two or three diamond tricks. He doesn't know at the outset how he will fare in either suit because he doesn't know how the opposing cards are divided.

South begins by taking the heart queen with the ace and cashes the ace of spades. As it happens, West's king falls. Declarer now knows he will eventually have to lose a trump trick to East's jack.

With the trump situation clarified, declarer now turns his attention to the question of how many diamond tricks he will lose. If the diamond ace is on his right, he is in good shape, but if it is on his left, he is in danger of losing three diamond tricks and the contract.

The challenge at this point is to make the contract even if West has the ace. To guard against this contingency, declarer first cashes the king of hearts and queen of spades. He then plays the K-Q-A of clubs, followed by dummy's ten of hearts. But instead of ruffing the ten, South discards a diamond!

West takes the ten with the jack but unhappily has no safe exit card. He must either lead a diamond or hand declarer a ruff-and-discard, and whichever he chooses, South makes four spades.

Tomorrow: The 100% solution.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5299

5	9	7	6	1	3	8	4	2
8	1	3	2	5	4	6	7	9
6	2	4	7	9	8	1	3	5
3	8	9	4	7	1	5	2	6
2	7	6	8	3	5	4	9	1
1	4	5	9	6	2	7	8	3
4	3	1	5	8	9	2	6	7
7	5	8	3	2	6	9	1	4
9	6	2	1	4	7	3	5	8

Tricky — B5299

2	8	3	4	6	7	1	9	5
6	5	1	3	8	9	4	7	2
9	7	4	2	5	1	6	3	8
7	6	8	5	9	3	2	1	4
4	1	9	8	7	2	3	5	6
3	2	5	6	1	4	7	8	9
8	9	7	1	4	6	5	2	3
5	4	2	7	3	8	9	6	1
1	3	6	9	2	5	8	4	7